

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of Clearwater County, Province of Alberta, held October 27, 2015 in the Clearwater County Council Chambers in Rocky Mountain House.

CALL TO ORDER: The Meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Reeve Alexander with the following being present:

Reeve:	Patrick Alexander
Councillors:	Earl Graham
	Curt Maki
	Jim Duncan
	John Vandermeer
	Kyle Greenwood
	Theresa Laing
CAO:	Ron Leaf
Recording Secretary:	Tracy Haight
Staff:	
Director, Corp Services	Rudy Huisman
	Rhonda Serhan
	Ben Charles
Director, Community & Protective Svs	Ted Hickey
Delegates:	Mona Crocker
	Jan Thomson
	Bonnie Ireland
	Dr. Paulette Hannah
Media:	Laura Button
	Sylvana Crosby
	Helge Nome

**AGENDA
APPROVAL:**

Councillor Laing requested the addition of a verbal report on the Rocky Mountain House Library Board. Councillor Graham requested the addition of a verbal report on Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMDC) activities.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That the October 27, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda be accepted as amended.

379/15 CARRIED 7/0

**CONFIRMATION
OF MINUTES:**

1. October 13, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That the Minutes of the October 13, 2015 Regular Meeting be accepted as circulated.

380/15 CARRIED 7/0

**COMMUNITY &
PROTECTIVE
SERVICES:**

1. 10:30 A.M. Delegation: Campus Alberta Central, Bonnie Ireland, Executive Director

Ted Hickey introduced Dr. Paulette Hanna, Red Deer College, VP Academics, and Bonnie Ireland, Executive Director, Campus Alberta Central to Council.

Ms. Ireland introduced members of the Rocky Learning Council, Mona Crocker, Executive Director, and Jana Thomson, Program Coordinator.

Ms. Ireland provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding "Regional Stewardship - Campus Alberta Central". She explained Campus Alberta Central's (CAC) stewardship role in providing local community access to distant post-secondary learning opportunities.

Ms. Ireland and Dr. Hanna responded to questions from Council and explained that CAC works in partnership with the Rocky Learning Council to provide courses and programs from Olds College and Red Deer College.

Discussion followed on Red Deer College's involvement with the Wild Rose School Division to pilot programs that are designed to address the educational needs within the area.

Ms. Crocker responded to questions from Council and stated that in Rocky Mountain House, adult education services have been provided by Red Deer College and other institutions since 1980.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the information as presented.

381/15

CARRIED 7/0

**CORPORATE
SERVICES:**

1. 2015 Operating Budget Nine Month Performance Report

Mr. Huisman explained that the resulting \$16,257,266 variance in the budget surplus is due to earning most of the budgeted revenues, while only 51% of the budgeted expenses have been recorded, as of September 30. He noted that 90% of the budgeted operating surplus is committed to specific approved capital expenditures and that the operating surplus will be in line with the budgeted amount by year-end.

Mr. Huisman presented the 2015 Operating Budget Nine Month Performance Report, as of September 30, 2015, and noted operating revenue variances as follows:

- The budget amount for Net Municipal Taxes does not reflect the additional \$1,207,059, which Council approved on April 28, for increased linear assessment taxes. Council also approved an offsetting contribution to the County Facilities Reserve of the same amount. The actual variance is \$56,800.
- Actual revenue for User Fees and Sales of Goods is \$206,958. The budgeted amount includes \$553,000 for unrealized land sales.
- The budget amount for Government Transfers for Operating includes \$2,300,000 for flood and fire disaster relief. Disaster relief funds received to date are in deferred revenue until repair work is completed at which time amounts will be transferred to actual revenue accounts.
- Actual Development Levies collected are less than the budgeted amount due to the slow progression of several subdivision development projects.
- Actual revenue for Permits and Licenses are over budget due to the increase in application fees and the number of applications received this year.
- Actual revenue for Well Drilling Equipment Tax is significantly lower than previous years due to decreased industrial activity.

Mr. Huisman noted Operating Expenses as follows:

- Expenses for Agriculture Services, Community Peace Officers, Corporate Services, Nordegg Historical Society, and Public Works are as expected and within budget.

- At this time, expenditures for Community Services and Culture are under budget pending receipt of invoices from various entities. Actual expenses are within acceptable limits and Administration anticipates the budget will be achieved by year-end.
- The budget amount for Emergency Services includes \$2,370,000 for flood and fire repair costs. Flood and fire repair work is in progress and not all costs have been incurred as this time.
- The budget amount for Economic Development includes \$1,304,878 for revenue sharing payments, due in the fourth quarter, to three municipalities. Only 37% of the remaining balance of \$290,541 is spent. This variance is due to less than 20% of budgeted funds spent on an internet services study and a position that remained vacant for seven months.
- The budget amount for Recreation includes \$4,560,293 for commitments to the Town of Rocky Mountain House for the arena and curling rink project. Administration recommends that any remaining amount at year-end be allocated to the Work in Progress Reserve.
- Actual expenses for Regional Fire are 68% of budget once cost sharing with regional partners, occurring in the fourth quarter, is considered.
- The budget amount for Planning includes \$585,000 for the Regional Economic Development Plan review and \$50,000 for legal fees. Actual expenses are at 64% of budget.
- Actual expenses for Nordegg Operations are 22% of budget. No real estate fees have been incurred for lot sales.
- Actual expenses for Safety are under budget due to a vacant position.
- Nordegg Historical Society has been renamed to Nordegg Historic Operations.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the information as presented.

382/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. Request for Waiver of Late Tax Payment Penalty

Rudy Huisman stated that the request to waive the late tax payment penalty on Roll 3908274022 has been withdrawn as the penalty was paid.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council receives the information as presented.

383/15

CARRIED 7/0

Lisa Novacek and Christine Heggart joined the meeting.
Rudy Huisman and Rhonda Serhan left the meeting.
Sgt. Jim Lank joined the meeting.

MUNICIPAL:

1. Generational Communication and Engagement

Lisa Novacek presented information regarding generational characteristics and communication and engagement processes suited to each generation. Ms. Novacek provided statistics on the age distribution within Clearwater County and social media and website usage by County residents.

Discussion followed on the differing expectations that each generation has with the way each receives and gives information and the differing levels of civic engagement for each generation.

Discussion continued on the methods of communication that are commonly used by residents in Clearwater County. Christine Heggart concluded by indicating that the information presented will be used in the County's communication strategies to engage the varied generations working or living within the County.

COUNCILLOR VANDERMEER: That Council receives the information as presented.

384/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. 11:00 A.M. Delegation: Sundre RCMP Detachment Commander, Sgt. Jim Lank

Sgt. Jim Lank provided an overview on crime statistics for the Sundre area and provided information on activities undertaken to educate the public on crime and safety issues.

Sgt. Lank described a new initiative named the Crime Reduction Team (CRT) and noted that based on its effectiveness in Olds, Sundre, and Didsbury, he hopes to discuss the value of a similar operation in the Rocky Mountain House area with the local RCMP Detachment Commander.

Sgt. Lank responded to questions from Council and provided details on enforcement coverage in the West Country during the summer months. He noted the collaborative efforts with various agencies and Clearwater County Peace Officers that focused on public land use were successful.

Discussion followed on traffic enforcement and Sgt. Lank noted that, on average, the Sundre RCMP provide approximately 30 – 50 hours of traffic enforcement patrols within Clearwater County per month.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council receives the information as presented.

385/15

CARRIED 7/0

Reeve Alexander recessed the meeting at 12:37 p.m. for a lunch break.

Reeve Alexander called the meeting to order at 1:19 P.M. with the following in attendance: Councillors Graham, Maki, Duncan, Vandermeer, Greenwood, and Laing; Ron Leaf, Ted Hickey, Helge Nome, Laura Button, Slyvana Crosby, Christine Heggart, and Tracy Haight.

3. Clearwater County Rural Communications Standing Committee Terms of Reference

Ted Hickey presented the draft Terms of Reference for the Clearwater County Rural Communications Committee (CCRCC).

Discussion took place regarding the committee's purpose, expected time frame for the committee, and requirements for reporting.

COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD: That Council approves the Clearwater County Rural Communication Committee Terms of Reference.

386/15

CARRIED 7/0

2. State of Rural Canada 2015 Report

Ron Leaf provided an overview of the Canada Rural Revitalization Foundation's (CRRF) report, *The State of Rural Canada 2015*, released on September 17, 2015.

Discussion took place on the benefits of using the report's findings and recommendations as a platform to lobby the Provincial and Federal government for the advancement of policy and programs that benefit rural Alberta and rural Canada.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council receives the CRRF report as information.

387/15

CARRIED 7/0

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council sends correspondence to Prime Minister Trudeau and Federal Cabinet Ministers, once sworn in, encouraging them to establish policies and programs supporting rural Canada.

388/15

CARRIED 7/0

3. Pathway 2 Sustainability Conference Attendance

Discussion took place on councillors' availability to attend the Pathways 2 Sustainability Conference in Olds from November 8 – 10.

Councillor Vandermeer indicated his availability to attend.

COUNCILLOR DUNCAN: That Council authorizes Councillor Vandermeer's attendance.

389/15

CARRIED 7/0

4. Stakeholders Engagement Session: Biodiversity Management Framework Overview

Discussion took place on councilors' availability to attend the Stakeholders Engagement Session on the Biodiversity Management Framework.

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM: That Council authorizes two members of Council to attend the Stakeholders Engagement Session on November 12.

390/15

CARRIED 7/0

INFORMATION:

1. CAO's Report

Ron Leaf reviewed the recent Provincial cabinet appointments and changes announced on October 22.

Discussion took place on attendance at the Remembrance Day services for Rocky Mountain House and Village of Caroline. Councillor Vandermeer indicated his availability to attend the Village of Caroline service. Reeve Alexander indicated his availability to attend the Rocky Mountain House service.

Councillor Laing reported on the hiring of a new library manager for the Rocky Mountain House Public Library effective November 2.

Councillor Graham reported on the meeting with the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties Board of Directors and Provincial Ministers for Municipal Affairs and Transportation.

COUNCILLOR LAING:	That Council receives the CAO Report, Public Works Director's Report, Accounts Payable Listing, Councillor Remuneration, and Councillors' Verbal Reports as information.
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391/15

CARRIED 7/0

ADJOURNMENT:
2:12 P.M.

COUNCILLOR MAKI:	That the Meeting adjourns.
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392/15

CARRIED 7/0

 _____ REEVE

 _____ CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
